

Application Serial No. 09/576,989

B1  
HCV sequence comprises, from 5' to 3' on the positive-sense nucleic acid, a functional 5' non-translated region (5' NTR); one or more protein coding regions, including at least one polypeptide coding region that is capable of replicating HCV RNA; and a functional HCV 3' non-translated region (3' NTR) and wherein said [polypeptide] polynucleotide further comprises an adaptive mutation.

---

**Remarks**

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 3-24, 29, 41-44, 61-70 and 72-75 are now pending.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Kasten  
Reg. No. 45,363  
Howell & Haferkamp, L.C.  
7733 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1400  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 727-5188

December 10, 2001